

ing so much time to this subject, for I am surprised myself. Nevertheless, I can see many important objects to be gained by this publication, for the benefit of the public if not of myself. In the first place, it enables many thousand persons to trace their genealogy back for about three centuries, and to many persons this is a source of rational satisfaction. In the second place, it enables many persons from the older States to recover information respecting relatives who long since wandered off to the far West, and had been often sought for in vain. In the third place, it is probable that cases may hereafter arise in which this book may prove to be worth a thousand times more than its cost, from the assistance it will render in tracing relationships which may secure the inheritance of estates. But beyond all such personal considerations, a complete family genealogy, such as it is hoped the Loomis Genealogy may one day become, has a value with reference to questions of General History and Political Philosophy. This Genealogy shows how from a single man, established in Connecticut in 1639, has descended an army of sturdy men who contributed no mean share towards making good our Declaration of Independence in 1776, and in saving our country from disruption in 1861: who have been respectably represented in the ranks of educated men and in each of the three learned professions; who have been creditably represented in Congress as well as in numerous State Legislatures and on the bench of Justice. These men have contributed an important share in levelling the forests of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and in subduing the prairies of the more Western States. Wherever they have gone they have organized churches and schools, and with few exceptions their characters have been blameless. Although most of the names recorded in this book are obscure, very few have done discredit to their ancestry by an immoral life.

Those persons who wish to compare the present with a former age will find ample materials in this volume. They will see that for six generations the average number of children to a family was in no generation less than six; and that the average age of all the persons of the first five generations was considerably over *fi/ty* years. They will find a list of thirty-five of the descendants who attained to an age of 90 years, and one exceeding a hundred years.